



Advancing HIV Prevention Partnership Activities



Partnerships are a critical component of the Advancing HIV Prevention (AHP) initiative. The new initiative has facilitated an increase in the number of CDC partnerships in place and enhanced collaborative activities with existing partners.

Federal Partnerships

CDC AHP-related partnership activities include work with federal partners such as:

- **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)** and the **U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)** – reviewing the evidence for routine HIV screening for adults and for pregnant women to ensure appropriate recommendations for testing are in place.
- **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** – updating the 1995 letter on perinatal testing to state Medicaid directors to encourage reimbursement for prenatal HIV testing under the opt-out approach and for rapid opt-out HIV testing at labor and delivery, and encouraging reimbursement for routine HIV testing of sexually active Medicaid- and Medicare-eligible patients. (The opt-out approach means that pregnant women are notified that an HIV test will be routinely included in the standard battery of prenatal tests for all pregnant women, but they can decline HIV testing.) CMS is also participating in a case management workgroup to develop a set of recommendations for states, Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMAs), and communities on integrated or collaborative case management systems. These guidelines will be useful in establishing some uniformity across various agencies' approach to case management.
- **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** – sharing case management expertise with CDC related to HUD's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program and participating in the case management workgroup.
- **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** – incorporating prevention services into care for HIV-infected patients.
- **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** – ensuring the implementation of AHP strategies in HRSA-funded programs, including the Ryan White Care Act, consolidated health centers, and maternal and child health programs. Working with CDC, HRSA
 - incorporated AHP language into the application guidance for Ryan White Care Act grantees.

- established a working group to develop guidelines for case management (with CMS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], and HUD).
- prepared estimates of the need for increased care and treatment services for HIV-infected persons identified through this initiative.
- conducted a session on AHP perinatal HIV screening strategies for a series of audio-conferences.
- is developing an operational guide for community health centers to incorporate routine HIV testing and prevention into the medical care of HIV-infected patients.
- will consider updating Bureau of Primary Health Care Policy Information Notice (PIN) #94-44 (*Services for Patients with Human Immunodeficiency Infection*) to include AHP.
- **Office of Population Affairs (OPA)** – working with CDC to incorporate AHP strategies into family planning programs.
- **SAMHSA** – collaborating with CDC to acquire expertise on implementation of a large-scale rapid testing initiative, including procurement of rapid test kits, site selection, training, and monitoring and evaluation. This initiative will develop capacity to provide rapid testing at substance abuse treatment and prevention programs, methadone maintenance sites, and mental health programs. SAMHSA is also participating in the case management working group with CMS, HRSA, and HUD.

Other Partnerships

CDC AHP-related partnership activities also include work with nonfederal partners such as

- **American Hospital Association (AHA)** – developing operational guidance and providing technical assistance on HIV testing in hospitals; through its research and education affiliate, the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET), surveying AHA members on status of perinatal HIV screening and care policies in hospitals.
- **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)** – exploring development of clinical guidance for routine rapid HIV testing of women in labor with unknown HIV status, as well as repeat HIV screening during pregnancy in geographic areas with high HIV seroprevalence; partnering with CDC to produce patient and professional perinatal HIV educational materials and clinical guidance; publishing summary of state HIV testing regulations.
- **American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM)** – assessing current practices of members to inform CDC communications efforts; CDC experts are reviewing their training materials to ensure adequate coverage of HIV prevention and writing an article on prevention in care for the AAHIVM Study Guide.
- **American Academy of Emergency Medicine, American College of Emergency Physicians, and Society for Academic Emergency Medicine** – advising CDC on the policy, legal, and financial challenges associated with implementation of HIV screening and testing in emergency department settings.
- **CityMatCH** – collaborating with CDC to promote information and effort sharing among all its perinatal HIV grantees (prevention programs, national organizations, and enhanced perinatal surveillance).

- **François-Xavier Bagnoud Center (FXB)** – incorporating information about prenatal HIV testing, rapid HIV testing at labor and delivery for women of unknown HIV status, and prenatal HIV therapy to prevent HIV transmission into printed materials and training courses.
- **Health Plans and Managed Care Representatives** – advising CDC on a study of the cost effectiveness of early HIV diagnosis.
- **Infectious Diseases Society of America** – through its HIV Medicine Association, partnered with CDC, HRSA, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop *Incorporating HIV Prevention into the Medical Care of Persons Living with HIV* recommendations.
- **National Business Group on Health (formerly Washington Business Group on Health)** – working with CDC to determine how to incorporate HIV prevention services into the benefits that self-insured companies offer their employees.
- **National Association of Community Health Centers, Migrant Clinicians Network, and National Coalition for the Homeless** – creating model protocols and policies for use in community health centers on prevention for persons living with HIV and on encouraging testing for persons with unknown HIV status.
- **National Association of Social Workers** – collaborating with CDC, CMS, HRSA, HUD/HOPWA, and SAMHSA in the development of a set of recommendations for states, EMAs, and communities on integrated or collaborative case management systems.

Public/Private Partnerships

AHP goals and objectives are being incorporated into the activities of the National HIV/AIDS Partnership (NHAP). Through national public and private partnership alliances with leaders of communities hardest hit by the epidemic, NHAP will promote AHP strategies. Future NHAP goals include developing additional relationships with faith and business leaders to address stigma as a barrier to HIV testing.

CDC AHP-related partnership activities also include work with national public and private sector partners such as

- **National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)** – worked with CDC to distribute National HIV Testing Day kits to 118 Historically Black Colleges and Universities and contacted each school to encourage use of these materials.
- **San Diego Padres** – conducted an HIV/AIDS Awareness Night with pregame activities that included a human formation of the AIDS red ribbon and a display of sections of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. The Partnership's messages, "Get Tested" and "Get Care," were included in the official game program and displayed on the electronic scoreboard during the event.
- **Magic Johnson Foundation** – collaborated with CDC on an HIV/AIDS prevention program promoting the benefits of early testing. The program was for African-American and Latino college students. Previously, Johnson lent his name and signature to the Partnership's recruitment materials, urging celebrities to support the Partnership's messages.

CDC and its partners are now moving into year two of AHP. The collaborations described above will be critical to the success of the plans established in year one and to achieving the goals of AHP.